GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4817
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INDO-BANGLADESH TIES
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the details regarding Indo-Bangladesh relations following the installation of a new Government over there?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4817 FOR ANSWER ON 24.4.2002

The Government of India has welcomed the formation of new Government in Bangladesh through democratic means. India values its ties with Bangladesh and the change in Government has not affected India`s commitment towards working with Bangladesh for the progress and betterment of the people of the two countries and of the region as a whole.

High level exchanges and interaction have taken place after the formation of the new government in Bangladesh. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and National Security Adviser visited Dhaka as special envoy of the Prime Minister in October 2001. Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on PM in Kathmandu on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in January 2002. This higl level interaction was followed by the visit of the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to hold consultations outside the regular framework of Foreign Office consultations in February 2002.

The other major meetings that have taken place between India and Bangladesh are Talks to review and extend the Agreement and Protocol for the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service, the Director General-level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles in March 2002 ir Dhaka, the second meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Groups relating to implementation of the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 and the annual Trade Review Talks at the level of Commerce Secretaries in early April 2002 in Dhaka.

The Government has also taken up the issue of attacks on minorities and the presence of Indian insurgent outfits in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has acknowledged our concern and has assured us that anti-Indian activities would not be allowed on its territory.